

Endou et al.
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REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claim 17 has been amended and claims 1-16 have been cancelled. New claims 18-20 have been introduced. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 1-16 and non-elected subject matter of claim 17 in one or more continuing applications. Support for the amendment to claim 17 can be found, for example, in claim 1 as originally filed. Support for new claims 18-20 can be found in claims 2 through 4 as originally filed.

The specification was objected to because of various informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the subject matter address the objections to the specification and request that the objections be withdrawn.

Claim 17 was objected to because it contained non-elected subject matter. Claim 17, as amended, is directed to the subject matter of Group VI, as that group was defined in the Office Action dated September 11, 2001. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Claim 17, as amended, particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter of the invention. That is claim 17 particularly points out that the application provides methods of screening for compounds that change the ability of proteins of SEQ ID NO 2 to transport organic anions.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Sweet, et al. (1997).

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Sekine et al. (1997).

Sweet published on November 28, 1997.

Sekine published on July 25, 1997.

The present application claims priority from JP 9-134182/1997 which was filed on May 23, 1997. An English language translation of the priority application is enclosed herewith.

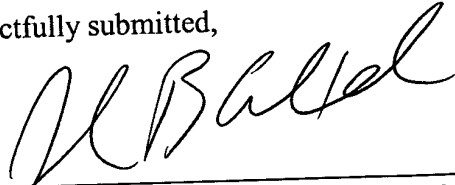
Thus, neither Sweet nor Sekine are available as prior art against the instant application. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejections over Sweet or Sekine be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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Respectfully submitted,



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